

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of producing a high gloss exterior finish on a hearing aid ear shell, the ear shell having a vent, comprising the steps of:

- (a) coating the ear shell with a UV-curable substance;
- (b) permitting the UV-curable substance to drain off the ear shell, leaving a thin uncured layer on the ear shell;
- (c) exposing the ear shell to UV light to cure the thin uncured layer;
- (d) removing any excess of the UV-curable substance from step (c); and
- (e) exposing the ear shell to UV light a second time~~[[.]]~~; and
- (f) pre-sizing the ear shell thickness to account for increased thickness added by steps (a) through (e).

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the UV-curable substance further comprises a ~~stereo-lithography resin~~ photo-curable polymer.

3. (canceled)

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step (d) is performed by rinsing the ear shell in an alcohol bath.

5. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step (d) is performed with exposure of the ear shell to ultrasound in the alcohol bath.

6. (currently amended) A method of producing a high gloss exterior finish on a hearing aid ear shell, the ear shell having a vent, comprising the steps of:

- (a) pre-sizing the ear shell thickness to account for increased thickness added by steps (b) through ~~[(g)]~~ (f);
- (b) coating the ear shell with a UV-curable substance;
- (c) permitting the UV-curable substance to drain off the ear shell, leaving a thin uncured layer on the ear shell;
- (d) exposing the ear shell to UV light to cure the thin uncured layer;
- (e) removing any excess of the UV-curable substance from step (d); and
- (f) exposing the ear shell to UV light a second time.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the UV-curable substance further comprises a ~~stereo-lithography resin~~ photo-curable polymer.

8. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step (e) is performed by rinsing the ear shell in an alcohol bath.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step (e) is performed with exposure of the ear shell to ultrasound in the alcohol bath.

10. (currently amended) A method of producing a high gloss exterior finish on a hearing aid ear shell, the ear shell having a vent, comprising the steps of:

- (a) pre-sizing the ear shell thickness to account for increased thickness added by steps (b) through ~~[(g)]~~(f);
- (b) coating the ear shell with a ~~stereo-lithography resin~~ photo-curable polymer;
- (c) permitting the ~~stereo-lithography resin~~ photo-curable polymer to drain off the ear shell, leaving a thin uncured layer on the ear shell;
- (d) exposing the ear shell to UV light to cure the thin uncured layer;
- (e) removing any excess of the ~~stereo-lithography resin~~ photo-curable polymer;
and
- (f) exposing the ear shell to UV light a second time.

11. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step (e) is performed by rinsing the ear shell in an alcohol bath.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step (e) is performed with exposure of the ear shell to ultrasound in the alcohol bath.